The Government had received some proposals from recruiting agents, for providing insurance cover, which were not accepted so far in view of the proposed amendment.

Unemployed Persons

1706. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) the number of unemployed persons particularly those living below the poverty line in the rural areas of the country as on 30th June, 2002, district and State-wise; and

(b) the details of proposals formulated to provide employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per the survey carried out during 1999-2000, approx 26% of the population is living below the poverty line. State wise details of the number and percentage of population below poverty line and the unemployment rates in rural areas of the country are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) The Tenth Plan will focus on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it will be one of the monitorable objective for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on the rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Statement

State-wise details of the number and percentage of population below poverty line and unemployment rates in rural areas

s. No.	State/Union Territory	Population below Poverty line in Rural areas (1999-2000)		Unemployment Rates in Rural areas 1999-2000(%)	
		Number (in lakhs)	%	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	1.2	0.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.9	0.1
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	4.7	11.9
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	2.4	0.6
5.	Goa	0.11	0.35	7.0	18.7
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	0.8	0.3
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	1.3	0.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	3.0	1.8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	2.6	7.1
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	1.0	0.3
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	7.6	19.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	0.7	0.2
13.	Maharashtra	125.32	23.72	2.4	1.1
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	2.4	2.5
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.5	0.3
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	2.1	0.5
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	3.0	3.8
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	3.1	1.6
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	2.3	6.2
20	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	0.8	0.2
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	3.5	2.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	3.0	1.2
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.8	4.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	1.3	0.6
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	3.4	3.8
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.58	20.55	3.3	7.6
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	1.0	—
28.	D & N Haveli	0.30	17.57	1.6	—
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	1.3	—
30.	Delhi.	0.07	0.40	3.9	26.0
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	10.9	52.9
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	4.7	2.6
	All India	1932.43	27.09	2.1	1.5

Introduction of Multi-benefit Employees Insurance Scheme

1707. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce a Multi-benefit Employees Insurance Scheme to provide unemployment assistance to the EPF beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The proposal to introduce an Employees Multi-benefit Insurance Scheme would require amendments to the Employees' Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. The quantum of benefit and the period for which the payment is proposed to be made, would require to be actually evaluated. The proposal is yet to be evaluated by the Government.